<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus comprising:

<u>an</u> input element for inputting ~~an~~ image data from a recording medium;

<u>an</u> output element for printing out the image data;

<u>an instruction element that receives an instruction from an operator to display selected image data input from the recording medium;</u>

<u>a display element that displays the selected image data based on the instruction received by the instruction element;</u>

<u>a</u> temporary storage <u>section that holds the selected image data that has been displayed on the display element as</u> ~~element for reading non-displayed image data from the recording medium and holding the non-displayed image data in a temporary storage section with holding~~ already-displayed image data; and

~~display element for reading image data from the temporary storage section and displaying the read image data.~~

<u>a control section that decides an order of priority in which non-selected image data is to be held in the temporary storage section, controls the input element to read the non-selected image data from the recording medium, controls the temporary storage section to hold the non-selected image-data according to the decided order with the already-displayed image data, and controls the display element to read the image data from the temporary storage section and to display the image data.</u>

2. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 1, wherein <u>the control section controls</u> the temporary storage element <u>to delete</u> ~~holds the image data in the temporary storage section or deletes~~ the image data from the temporary storage section, according to ~~an order of priority and~~ a predetermined limitation.

3. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the <u>control section decides sets a</u> priority order of non-displayed image data for <u>subsequent display</u> ~~the next display screen is set~~ higher than those of other non-displayed image data.

4. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control section sets the priority order of non-displayed detailed image data or non-displayed simplified image data corresponding to a selected already-displayed image data or an already-displayed image data in the vicinity thereof ~~is set~~ higher than those of other non-displayed image data.

5. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control section sets the predetermined limitation ~~is set~~ by specifying at least one of ~~the~~ a maximum holding number of already-displayed image data or non-displayed image data and ~~the~~ a maximum storage amount.

6. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus comprising:
an input element for inputting ~~an~~ image data from a recording medium;
an instruction element that receives an instruction from an operator to display selected image data input from the recording medium;
a display element that displays the selected image data based on the instruction received by the instruction element;
a first temporary storage section that holds already-displayed image data;
a second temporary storage section that holds ~~element for holding in a temporary storage section an~~ image data that has been designated to be printed out;
a control section that controls the second temporary storage section to read already-displayed image data from the first temporary storage section if the first temporary storage section contains already-displayed image data and, controls the second temporary storage section to read image data from the recording medium and hold the image-data in the second temporary storage section if the first temporary storage section does not contain already-displayed image data; and
an output element for reading the image data from the second temporary storage section and printing out the read image data on at least one printing device.

7. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when printout is designated from a list ~~display~~ displayed by the display section, the control section controls the second temporary storage section ~~element reads~~ to read image data to be printed out from the recording medium in advance before start of a printout process~~, and holds to hold the image data in the temporary storage section~~.

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8. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the control section controls the second temporary storage ~~element holds the image data in the temporary storage~~ section or ~~deletes~~ to delete the image data from the second temporary storage section[[,]] according to a predetermined limitation.

9. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the control section sets the predetermined limitation ~~is set~~ by specifying at least one of ~~the~~ a maximum holding number of image data and a ~~the~~ maximum storage amount.

10. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the control section calculates the predetermined limitation ~~is calculated~~ on the basis of the capacity of the second temporary storage section or the number of the printing devices.

11. (Currently Amended) An image display method performed by an image output apparatus that prints out image data read out from a recording medium, comprising:

~~reading non-displayed image data from the recording medium and holding the non-displayed image data in a temporary storage section with holding already-displayed image data; and~~

receiving an operator instruction with an instruction element to display image data;

displaying the image data based on the received operator instruction;

holding already-displayed image data in a storage section;

deciding an order of priority in which image-data recorded in the recording-medium is held in the storage section with a decision element;

reading from the recording medium and holding in a temporary storage element image-data that is not instructed by the operator instruction to be displayed according to the order decided by the decision element; and

reading [[an]] image data from the temporary storage section and displaying the read image data.

12. (Currently Amended) An image display method performed by an image output apparatus that prints out image data read out from a recording medium, comprising:

receiving an operator instruction with an instruction element to display image data;

displaying the image data based on the received operator instruction;

holding in a first storage section already-displayed image data;

holding in a <u>second</u> temporary storage section image data to be printed out;

<u>controlling the second temporary storage section to read already-displayed image data from the first temporary storage section if the first temporary storage section contains already-displayed image data, and controlling the second temporary storage section to read image data from the recording medium and hold the image-data in the second temporary storage section if the first temporary storage section does not contain already-displayed image data;</u> and

reading the image data from the <u>second</u> temporary storage section and printing out the image data.

13. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus comprising:

<u>an</u> input element for inputting an image data from a recording medium;

<u>a</u> display condition specifying element for displaying selection items for each display condition and specifying the display condition through selection of a selection item<u>, the display condition specifying element displaying at least one representative image data matching the display conditions, while relating it to the selection item, and switching the representative image data</u>;

display element for displaying the image data based on the display conditions; and

output element for printing out the image data.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the display condition specifying element ~~displays at least one representative image data matching the display conditions, while relating it to the selection item, and~~ switches the representative image data <u>every time a predetermined time passes</u>.

16. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the display condition specifying element displays <u>the representative image data along with</u> information regarding the image data matching the display conditions, while relating it to the selection item.

17. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim ~~13~~ <u>16</u>, wherein the display conditions include at least one of date, year, month, week, time of photographing or creation of the image data.

18. (Currently Amended) An image output apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the display condition specifying element displays the representative image data along with a calendar such that the representative image data the selection items are displayed on a calendar

19. (Currently Amended) An image display method performed by an image output apparatus that prints out image data read out from a recording medium, comprising:

(a) displaying step for displaying selection items for each display condition and specifying the display condition through selection of a selection item, the displaying step displaying at least one representative image data matching the display conditions, while relating it to the selection item, and switching the representative image data; and

(b) displaying step for displaying the image data based on the display conditions.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) An image display method according to claim 19, wherein the step (a) displays at least one representative image data matching the display conditions, while relating it to the selection item, and switches the representative image data every time a predetermined time passes.

22. (Currently Amended) An image printing system having a plurality of image output apparatuses, each apparatus having comprising: an input element for inputting image data[;], an instruction element for instructing by an operator to print out[;], and a printing element for printing out image data using a plurality of printing devices; and device, comprising:

assigning element for assigning the image data to the printing device of at least one of the image output apparatuses the plurality of printing devices, where the assigning element preferentially assigns the image data to be printed to the printing device that has printed out the least number of image data among the printing devices.

23. (Currently Amended) An image printing system having a plurality of image output apparatuses, each apparatus having comprising: an input element for inputting image data[;], an instruction element for instructing by an operator to print out[;], and a printing element for printing out image data using a plurality of printing devices; and device, comprising:

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assigning element for assigning the image data to <u>the printing device of at least one of the image output apparatuses</u> ~~the plurality of printing devices~~, where the assigning element assigns the same image data to the same printing device.

24. (Currently Amended) An image <u>printing system having a plurality of image</u> output apparatus<u>es, each apparatus having</u> ~~comprising:~~ <u>an</u> input element for inputting image data[;]<u>, an instruction element for instructing by an operator to print out</u>[;]<u>, and a</u> printing element for printing out image data using a ~~plurality of~~ printing ~~devices; and~~ <u>device, comprising:</u>

assigning element for assigning the image data to <u>the printing device of at least one of the image output apparatuses</u> ~~the plurality of printing devices~~, where the assigning element assigns a smaller percentage of image data to a certain printing device than to other printing devices.

25. (Currently Amended) An image <u>printing system having a plurality of image</u> output apparatus<u>es, each apparatus having</u> ~~comprising:~~ <u>an</u> input element for inputting image data[;]<u>, an instruction element for instructing by an operator to print out</u>[;]<u>, a</u> printing element for printing out image data using a ~~plurality of~~ printing ~~devices; and~~ <u>device, and a</u> ~~plurality of~~ removal <u>opening</u> ~~openings~~ corresponding to the printing ~~devices~~ <u>device, comprising:</u>

<u>an assigning element for assigning the image data to the printing device of at least one of the image output apparatuses; and</u>

a printed item conveying device for conveying printed items to a predetermined removal opening.

26. (Currently Amended) An image <u>printing system</u> ~~output apparatus~~ according to claim 25, further comprising removal-opening open close element for opening an open and close flap of the predetermined removal opening and closing those of all other removal openings.

27. (Currently Amended) An image output method performed by an image <u>printing system having a plurality of image</u> output ~~apparatus~~ <u>apparatuses, each apparatus having</u> ~~that prints out inputted image data, comprising:~~ <u>an input element for inputting image data, an instruction element for instructing by an operator to print out, a printing element for</u> printing out image data using a ~~plurality of~~ printing ~~devices;~~ <u>device, and a removal opening corresponding to the printing device, comprising:</u>

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assigning the image data to the ~~plurality of~~ printing devices <u>of at least one of the image output apparatuses</u>; and

conveying printed items to a predetermined removal opening among <u>the</u> removal openings ~~provided for respective printing devices~~.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) A recording medium on which is recorded a program which causes a computer to function as the image output apparatus according to claim 1.

38. (Previously Presented) A recording medium on which is recorded a program which causes a computer to function as the image output apparatus according to claim 6.

39. (Previously Presented) A recording medium on which is recorded a program which causes a computer to function as the image output apparatus according to claim 13.

40. (Currently Amended) A recording medium on which is recorded a program which causes a computer to function as the image ~~output apparatus~~ <u>printing system</u> according to claim 22.

41. (Currently Amended) A recording medium on which is recorded a program which causes a computer to function as the image ~~output apparatus~~ <u>printing system</u> according to claim 23.

42. (Currently Amended) A recording medium on which is recorded a program which causes a computer to function as the image ~~output apparatus~~ <u>printing system</u> according to claim 24.

43. (Currently Amended) A recording medium on which is recorded a program which causes a computer to function as the image ~~output apparatus~~ <u>printing system</u> according to claim 25.